

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Community Church of Sebastopol

United Church of Christ
707.823.2484
www.uccseb.org
office@uccseb.org

Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Associate Minister of Faith Formation

Rev. Lacey Hunter

Associate Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Handbell Ensemble Director

Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Congregational Administrator

Chris Chang Weeks

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Maria Mojica

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



As I Look Around This Boat

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

Excerpt from June 20 Sermon:

Historically, the church has been described as a boat. The symbol of the ecumenical church is that of a boat with a cross as the mast. The main section of a sanctuary, which often looks like a ship turned upside down, is called the nave, as in, you guessed, Navy. Here we are in a boat, the church, and it feels a bit like we've been tossed about and battered by a great storm. We are now, it seems, coming out on the other side. We've made it through, but we will never be the same.

As I look around this boat, I am filled with gratitude. At the risk of leaving someone out, I'd like to lift up some appreciations:

- ◇ She created opportunities for people of all ages to continue formational practices that led to deeper faith, a stronger sense of justice, and meaningful connections with each other. She has served as Associate Minister longer under Covid than before it: Rev. Lacey Hunter.
- ◇ She made phone calls and visits, offered time and space for prayer and contemplation, held the ill and the grieving: Rev. Rachel Knuth
- ◇ She began her role after the pandemic began, adapting to the changing situation, keeping our community in communication, and overseeing the management of our facility: Chris Chang Weeks.
- ◇ She made a Handbell Ensemble into a close-knit community, ministering to passersby in Ragle Park who shed tears to hear the sound of bells. She coordinated with composers and musicians to craft digital works of musical art: Karna Roa. A wonderful director alone does not an ensemble make. Let's hear it for all the members of our Handbell Ensemble.
- ◇ She stepped in to keep our hymn-singing alive, recording separate singers and blending them into a single chorus. She riffed and ragged so we could tap our toes while worshipping from home: J. Althea. And let's hear it for our singers, especially those who showed up week after week to sing from the heart and sustain our worship: Gene, Judy, Jenna, Dawson, Lois, Roger, Yvette, Bobbie, Andy, and Sharon.



Continued on page 7

JULY 2021 WORSHIP: WOVEN TOGETHER

We are now worshipping on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in-person outdoors and livestreaming the service to our Facebook page. The service can also be viewed later on our YouTube channel. To attend in-person, register here.

See weekly emails or visit www.uccseb.org for more details.

July 4 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion in-person for the first time in almost 16 months. Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on the story of Jesus' return to his hometown found in Mark 6: 1 – 13.

June 11 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on the story of King David dancing with all his might before the ark of the Lord, found in I Samuel 6: 1 – 5.

July 18 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, will be our preacher this day. The Gospel reading is Mark 6: 30 – 34 & 53 – 56 in which Jesus invites his disciples to "seek out the deserted places and rest."

July 25 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on John 6: 1 – 21, a story about Jesus feeding multitudes and walking on the water.

Coming in August... 5 Sundays, Pastor Rachel preaches, scripture readings from the Gospel of John, Back-to-School blessings



Ritual of Remembrance

Many of us have experienced loss during the past year and a half of pandemic, and often a communal acknowledgement of grief has been postponed. To hold space for grief and loss, we will engage in a Ritual of Remembrance during the worship service on July 18. As part of this ritual, the Pastors will read aloud the names of loved ones who have died. If you have a particular name (or names) of a loved one you'd like lifted up, please send it to Pastor Rachel. Your loved one's name will be spoken aloud in the context of prayer, their life lifted up with thanksgiving and care. For more information, or to share names of loved ones, please contact Pastor Rachel: pastorra-chel@uccseb.org, by July 13. ✨



Sonos in Concert at Palo Alto

Our own handbell director, Karna Roa, is a member of the premier west coast handbell ensemble, Sonos. The group consists of ringers from around the country and they have been practicing virtually for several months. More recently, they have been gathering in Oakland to rehearse together for their upcoming performances in July. We are fortunate that they will have one Bay Area performance before going on the road. That performance will be July 9th at Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto. All are invited to attend. The concert is free. Please see check out their website: sonostemp.org

Faith Formation: Generation on Fire

By Marin Broadbent-Bell



On May 28, three brave young women began trekking from Paradise, California to San Francisco; a 266 mile event. Their goal was to begin a push for the Civilian Climate Corps, an aspect of the Green New Deal (GND). The Green New Deal is the most ambitious piece of legislation since the New Deal passed with FDR as President. New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey introduced the bill into congress. The Green New Deal will help extremely lessen the climate crisis and create millions of good jobs in the pro-

cess. The Civilian Climate Corps is one of the main segments of the GND. Markey describes it as, "A diverse and equitable group of 1.5 million Americans [that] over five years will complete federally-funded projects that help communities respond to climate change and transition to a clean economy. Civilian Climate Corps work will reduce carbon emissions, enable a transition to renewable energy, build healthier and more resilient communities, implement conservation projects with proven climate benefits, and help communities recover from climate disasters." On June 14, almost 100 people had joined with those original activists as part of the Sunrise Movement's climate justice initiative called Generation on Fire.

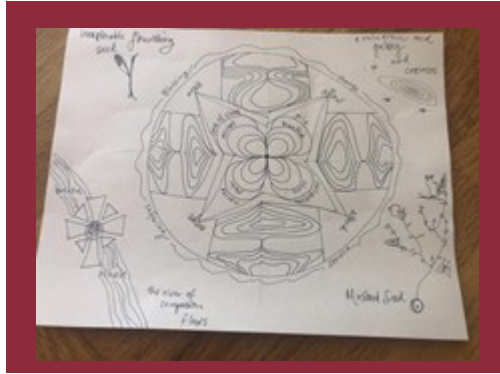


A few dozen others and I met the group as they approached the Golden Gate Bridge for a "day of action" in San Francisco targeting Senator Dianne Feinstein and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. As we continued walking through the heat, we began chanting, singing, and protesting. The first part of the day, we marched to Senator Feinstein's house, a massive mansion far away from the bustling streets of the city. We held a rally on her doorstep, using spray chalk to stencil words and images in front of the house. After protesting at Senator Feinstein's, we made our way to the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's house. At our second rally of the day, members of the group painted a 16-foot mural in the street in front of Speaker Pelosi's house. It read "Civilian Climate Corps" and "Invest in Us." Rep. Pelosi's press secretary responded to our demonstration by saying, "the courage and resilience of the young climate ac



Mandala Workshop

The Mandala Making Workshop was a lovely retreat-style morning in the Fountain Courtyard. Seven people gathered for contemplation, experienced the movement of the spirit, and created mandalas ("mandala" is the sanskrit word for "circle"). The symmetry of a mandala is calming, the concentric circles can re-center us after a time of disorientation (like emerging out of a pandemic!). Creating a mandala is both artistic and meditative-- something beautiful is created, but it's the process that is most important. Mandalas are a prayer language, inviting us to be in the moment with God, suspending thought, allowing us to connect with God.

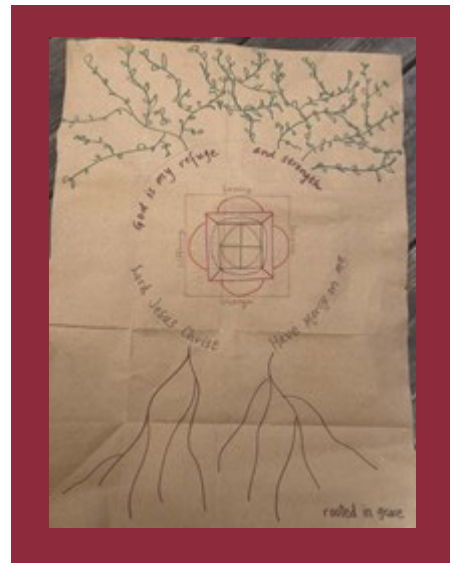


There are lots of ways to make a mandala, you can make one too! It's nice to begin in silence for a while, inviting God's presence. Our group generally used bowls or cups to trace concentric circles onto paper. You can also use fabrics, clay, found items from nature, sand, anything you like. Part of the prayer of making a mandala is to place an important symbol in the center-- what is centering you now? Then from that center, you start creating shapes outward. If you're making a mandala at home, remember not to plan too much, but to be free, repeating shapes that feel right to you. You can use an eraser! If you like prompts, you might consider the four sides of your paper as the prayer-space to ask God for guidance on four questions: How do I accept change? How do I cope with suffering? How do I receive blessing? How do I serve the world?



Here are some photos of a few mandalas the group worked on, some finished, some in progress.

With Gratitude for the Spirit Moving-- in Creativity, and in the Mandala Making Group,



Pastor Rachel

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – June 16, 2021

Summary of what was accomplished during the Leadership Council Meeting:

- * Pastor Ben's Sabbatical proposal was approved. Pastor Rachel will work full-time during those months.
- * Approval to upgrade wifi on campus and to install iWave air purification systems in the HVAC systems in the sanctuary, offices, Fellowship Hall, Pilgrim Center and Media Center. Memorial Hall will require stand-alone air purifier units.
- * Financial report: April ended with a positive net result of \$19.5K.

Quick Updates:

- The Recycle Kiosk may be installed at the end of June
- We may need to start paying the hourly employees every two weeks instead of monthly
- No updates from the City of Sebastopol on the status of the permit for the Conestoga huts

The congregation is invited to discuss these items as well as any other issues, concerns, ideas or appreciations to any of the Council Members. The Council Members are:

Robert Curtis – Moderator

Kathy Bell – Council Officer for Personnel

John Henel – Council Officer for Finances

Tom Terry – Council Officer for Facilities

Joyce Cox – Council Member for Outreach

Larell Fineren – Council Member for Faith Formation

Kathy Matthies – Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts

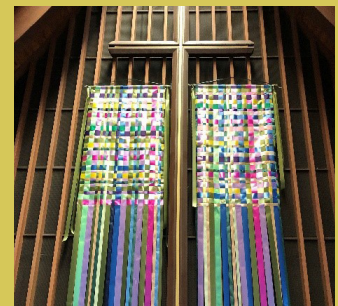
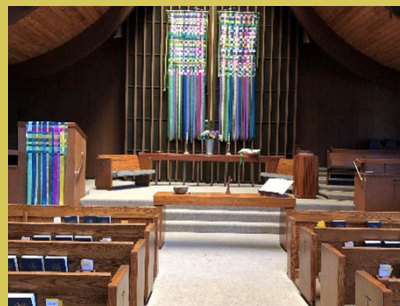
Danelle Tognozi - Clerk ☸

'We Are Woven Back Together' Banners

By Kathy Matthies

Colossians 2:2

I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery.



As I thought about finally coming back together after over a year of being apart, I searched for banner ideas that would express what it would mean to be back together and celebrate being woven back together. The church had a storage bin full of ribbon and I wondered if something could be created with that colorful ribbon. I found on Pinterest a similar design of what is shown here. With the help of Bobbie Johanson, Judy Peterson, Joyce Cox, Jane Huneke and Nancy Shimetz (not pictured) we were able to accomplish our vision. These banners will be up throughout summer and hopefully we will be back in the sanctuary soon for all to enjoy. ☸

Checking Off the List

By Chris Chang Weeks

We face two challenges before we can hold meetings and worship indoors: how to make the indoor space as safe as possible from viruses and how to livestream worship services and other events on campus.

Corona virus is spread through airborne particles or aerosols in the air when we open our mouths. A challenge has been to improve the air circulation and air purification in the buildings, including the sanctuary, offices, Fellowship Hall, Pilgrim Center and Memorial Hall. The solution may be simple and elegant, and part of it has been resolved already for the sanctuary.

Thanks to efforts from Tom Terry, Robertson's Mechanical sent a technician to review the HVAC system in the sanctuary. He discovered that the fan had never been connected to the thermostat. This meant that although there is a fan attached to the HVAC system, it was not possible to turn on the fans during stuffy, sweltering days during the summer. The fans draw 90% of the air from underground; the other 10% is from ambient air, resulting in release of cool air into the sanctuary. By switching to battery and attaching the wire that previously had been connected from the electrical power to the fan switch in the thermostat, the fans now work, and thus the air circulation in the sanctuary has greatly improved.

To address air purification, we will be attaching iWave air purification units that uses needle point bi-polar ionization technology to the HVAC systems. These devices will be attached to all the HVAC systems on campus. When air passes over the iWave, ions produced by the device reduce pathogens, allergens, particles, smoke and odors in the air, creating a healthy environment without any harmful byproducts, such as ozone. Memorial Hall, with its heaters installed on the ceilings, will need stand-alone air purifiers instead of an iWave system.

The second challenge has been to improve the wifi access on campus which has been very inadequate. An upgrade is part of what is needed to support live-streaming of our worship services and other events, thus giving people an option to either worship in person or on-line. John Henel is working with a wifi consultant from one of the 12-Step groups who has mapped out a solution that includes mesh wifi and changing our internet service provider from AT&T to Comcast/Xfinity.

We expect both the air purification systems and wifi projects to be finished by August-September. These are both significant facility improvements that will benefit all users of our spaces, and be an important feature for facility rentals. ❁

Jon Gonzales Featured in Townsy Sebastopol



Jon Gonzales is interviewed in the June 15 Townsy Sebastopol article, *Faces of West County*. His 15 year old son, Jonah, is a member of the Teen Tech Support Team who has helped us with zoom and streaming of the worship services. ❁

Around this Boat

Continued from page 1

- ◇ They met on Zoom every month, carrying out the business of the church, making decisions that helped carry us through, stewarding finances, aligning vision, deepening understanding of what it will require of us to be an anti-racist church, spending many hours in-between meetings connecting with the congregation, supporting the staff, and encouraging the membership: our Leadership Council.
- ◇ They came every week, sometimes twice a week, to weed, mow, prune, clip, rake, sweep, water, spray, and scrub. If you haven't been on our campus in 15 months, the only reason it looks cared for is because it was cared for by our Grounds team, including Larry, Roger, Judy, Jane, Buck, Marna, Barbara, Lois, and Tom.
- ◇ They gathered nearly every week, sometimes on Zoom and sometimes in-person. They were teens and pre-teens, young adults and elders. Battling Zoom fatigue, they encouraged and prayed for each other, wondered about the deeper meanings and wider implications of the times we're in, and just plain got goofy: our Middle and High Schoolers and their adult leaders.
- ◇ They got up on Sunday mornings instead of sleeping in. They made Zoom run smoothly. They shared their tech-spertise and made worship possible: our Teen Tech Team – Jonah, Aaron, Drew, and Marin.
- ◇ She made Godly Play videos for most Sundays of the past year so that our children would know they were seen and valued and included: Terri Harper.
- ◇ He provided the leadership and oversight necessary to continue offering hospitality to our Safe Parking guests: Gary Bachelor.
- ◇ He turned farming into a ministry, creating friendships among gardeners and providing fresh produce and friendly faces to those unable to leave their homes: Garth Watson.
- ◇ She came like a thief in the night with bolts of fabric and spools of thread. She decorated a sanctuary that few would see with their own eyes, an offering to the Lord: Kathy Matthies.
- ◇ They each came twice a week to check on the facility, making sure the doors were secure and reporting any issues: Linda Roa and Kathy Bell.
- ◇ You gave faithfully and generously, writing and sending checks, setting up recurring payments through your bank, figuring out how to give online. You shared stimulus funds and would often include little notes in your envelopes: all financial donors.
- ◇ You came to worship even though it wasn't the same. You opened yourself up to a new way of being together. To those who participated in Zoom worship, even just by showing up, I can say that I would not have made it through this year without you, and I thank you.

As I look around this boat, I am filled with gratitude. ☸



Hallelujah! In-Person Worship Returns

We held our first in-person worship on June 20 at 10:30 a.m. outside in Fountain Courtyard. This was our first gathering since March 15, 2020. It was good to be back together again. ☼



Creative Covid Expo

Following service, we had a lovely display of works made during our time at home.

THANK YOU to Jane Huneke for spearheading the expo, and to Linda Roa, Bobbie Johanson, Marge Holland, Kim Buckman, Ruthann Midi, Nadine Sanders, Muriel Weaver, Ben Broadbent, Joyce Cox, Chris Chang Weeks, Chris Jenkins, Kathy Matthies and Jane Huneke for allowing us to showcase their talent in our Covid Expo. ❁





Camp Caz Ritual of Release June 12

By Kathy Bell

On June 12th about 100 people from our NCNCUCC conference gathered at Camp Caz for a day of fun camp activities and a time of "Blessing and Releasing". Our conference has owned this beautiful property for the last 75 years. Through all these years, hundreds of our youth have been welcomed to this special place to learn about God, themselves and make lifelong friends. Our Sebastopol church family has enjoyed many years of gathering over the Labor day weekend for our own Family Camp. It was truly a time of joy and fellowship for many. The sale of this property to a non profit group from the Berkeley area called Shelterwood is in its final stages. It is our hope that once this new group gets settled into the facility that we may be able to rent it out for summer camps and retreats and continue to enjoy ALL that is CAMP CAZ! ❁

The event turned out to be a positive one. People were more in the spirit of gratitude and transition than a heavy, upsetting good-bye. We had a T.N.T. show, a Vespers service, lunch, and lots of hugs and laughter. It turned out to be quite a reunion too. Many generations as well with one attendant having been at Caz in the 60's! We had a release of Caz ceremony and created a welcome gift for the new owners coming in. It was a worthwhile event and people were glad they participated. ❁

Brian Wetzel



Generation on Fire Continued from page 3

tivists marching for climate justice is an inspiration.” This is what we were expecting, but it was a disappointment. Those in elected positions continue to say how brave we are for fighting for what we believe in, but they are not brave enough to stand for what they believe in.

Looking back, there were two very empowering moments. During the second rally, a pair of ten year old friends stepped forward to describe what it was like as a child not knowing if they have a future due to the climate crisis. Children should not have to comprehend that they might not have a future. The second moment came at the end of the day. As we finished, a Paradise resident named Allen Meyers walked to the doorstep of the house. He took out a tube of ashes from his family’s home in Paradise which had been destroyed in the devastating fires. The constant wildfire threats are due in large part to climate change. He then proceeded to empty the ashes onto the porch of the Speaker of the House of the United States of America to show how urgent this issue is.

As I reminisce on the day of action with a bad mask sunburn line and a lost voice, I am proud of our group for fighting for our future. As I end, there is one thing I want you and everyone else to remember. Invest in us because this fight is far from over!

To see a brief video of the event as covered by local media, [click here](#). You might even see a familiar face at the end of it. ❄



Pastoral Parish Relation Teams (PPRT)

By Kathy Bell, Council Officer for Personnel (Council Secretary)

In our Church, each Pastor has a Pastoral Parish Relation Team (PPRT). The purpose of this team is to support the mission of The Community Church by serving as a support and advisory group to the pastors, encouraging direct communication, and nurturing a healthy relationship between congregation and pastors.

The Essential Duties and Responsibilities of the Ministry Teams are:

- To work as a support group, using active listening to understand the roles, needs, functions, and interests of the pastor.
- To act as an advisory group, sharing ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations, and concerns with the pastor.
- To help set goals including professional growth and personal well-being of the pastor and the promotion of mutual ministry between the pastor and the congregation.
- To encourage direct communication between church members and pastors, especially in case of disagreement or conflict.
- At the pastor’s request, advocates on behalf of the pastor in a way that supports the overall health of the congregation.

The current PPRTeams are;

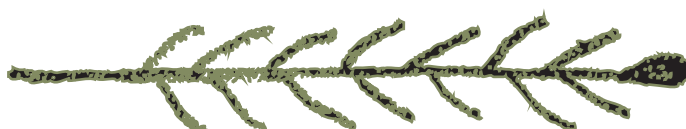
Ben’s team: Laura Pearsall, Steve Beck, Susan Olson, Ryan Hole, Stuart Mitchell, Gina Scribner

Lacey’s team: Judy Davidson, Alvin Hukins, Barbara Whitson, Alicia Sanchez

Rachel’s team: Joanne Matson, Sohni Yaylian, Beth Larssen, Blythe Osner ❄

July Birthdays

1	Donald Hendrickson	12	Mark Pettis	22	Tamar Knuth
1	Austen Look	13	John Sweeney	23	Lucy Kishaba
1	Allie Hole	14	Dawson Bell	23	Nicholas Jame
4	Harper Malone	14	Chris Jenkins	24	Barbara Nichols
5	Sandy Rosen	14	Lowell Yeager	25	Hal Roa
6	Maria Gordon	15	Hosanna Bauer	25	Marna McKenzie
6	Ian Galleto	16	Norma Taddeucci	25	Chris Dillard
8	Nancy Lee	17	Luanne Buchanan	26	Suzanne De Kozan
8	Andrew Liput	17	Daphne Cripps	27	Andy DelMonte
8	Ryan Hole	17	Judy Stupfel	27	Rich Olson
9	Norma Watson	19	Evelyn Bishop	27	Brandan Cassells
9	Paul Feige	19	Holly Johanson	28	Ken Noguchi
9	Maggie Robinson	19	Diane Krautner	28	Tod Noguchi
10	Benjamin Emerson	19	Dorothy McKoin	28	Toshi Noguchi
10	Isaac Trevino	19	Charles Williams	29	Michella Trevino
11	Bob Best	20	Jane Hynes	30	Rob McKoin
11	Eva Norton	22	Dick Norton	30	Rita Purcell
11	Margot Dowdney	22	Rebecca McClendon	31	Adair Look
				31	Sean Wood



Events in July at Community Church

We are gradually reopening at Community Church. Outdoor in-person worship services have commenced. Check our online calendar at <https://uccseb.org/Calendar.php> for updates.

July 1	Handbell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Leadership Retreat Planning, 1:00 p.m. Fountain Courtyard Outdoor Chancel Choir Singing, 7:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard
July 3	Leadership Retreat, 9:00 a.m., Fountain Courtyard
July 4	6th Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Conversation with the Bible, 9:15 a.m., Zoom Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 6	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Men's Discussion Group, 11:00 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Ben), 4:00 p.m., Zoom Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m. Zoom
July 7	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Women's Bible Study, Fountain Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
July 8	Handbell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Outdoor Chancel Choir Singing, 7:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard
July 9	Card Writing Ministry, 1:00 p.m., Zoom

July 10	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 11	7th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Conversation with the Bible, 9:15 a.m., Zoom Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 13	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m. Zoom
July 14	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Women's Bible Study, Fountain Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
July 15	Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline Handbell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Outdoor Chancel Choir Singing, 7:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard
July 18	8th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Conversation with the Bible, 9:15 a.m., Zoom Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Camp Tam: Junior Camp (4th – 6th grade) thru July 24
July 20	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Facilities Committee, 11:00 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m. Zoom
July 21	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Women's Bible Study, Fountain Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary Leadership Council, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
July 22	Handbell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Outdoor Chancel Choir Singing, 7:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard
July 25	9th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Conversation with the Bible, 9:15 a.m., Zoom Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Camp Tam: Junior Hi Camp (7th – 9th grade) thru July 31
July 27	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m. Zoom
July 28	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Women's Bible Study, Fountain Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
July 29	Safe Return Task Force, 11:30 a.m., Zoom Handbell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Outdoor Chancel Choir Singing, 7:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard

Suspended until further notice:

- Showers
- UkeStars

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